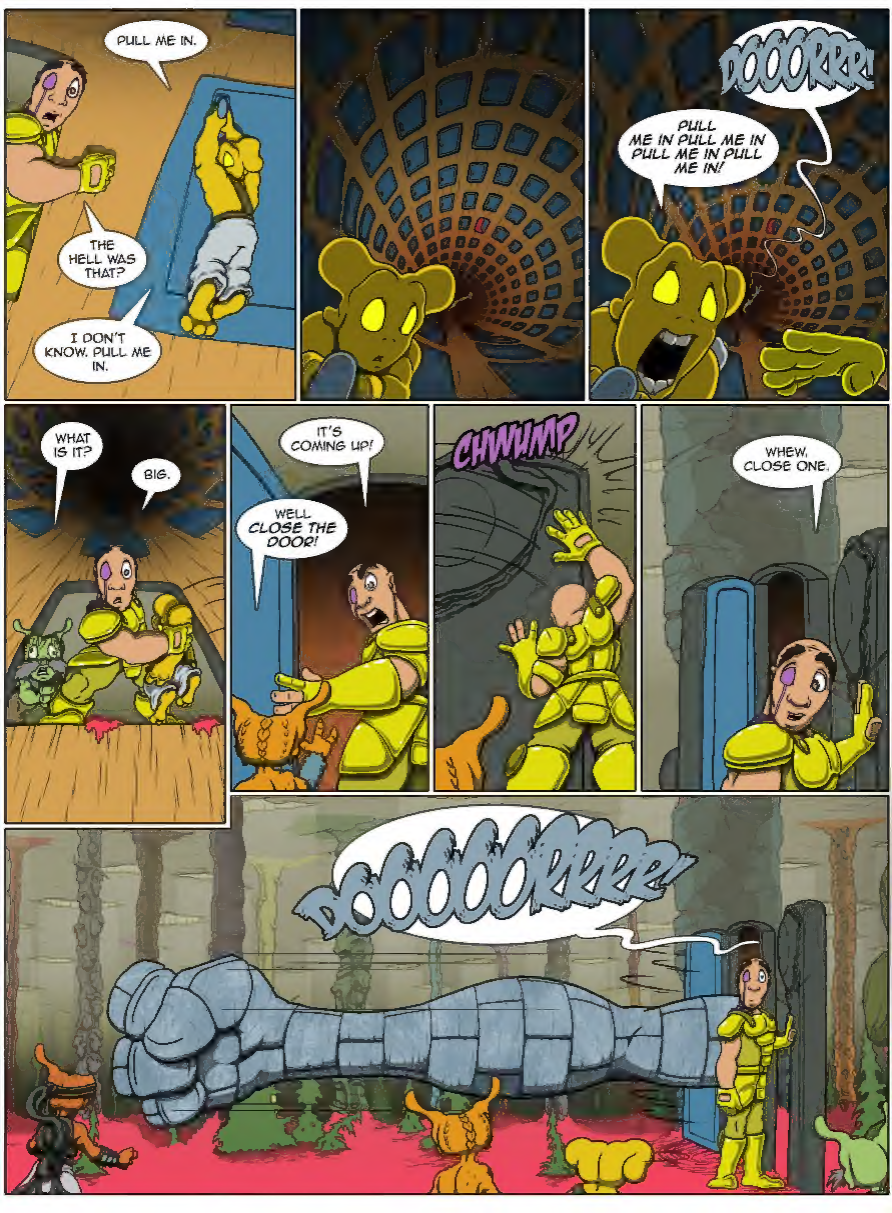
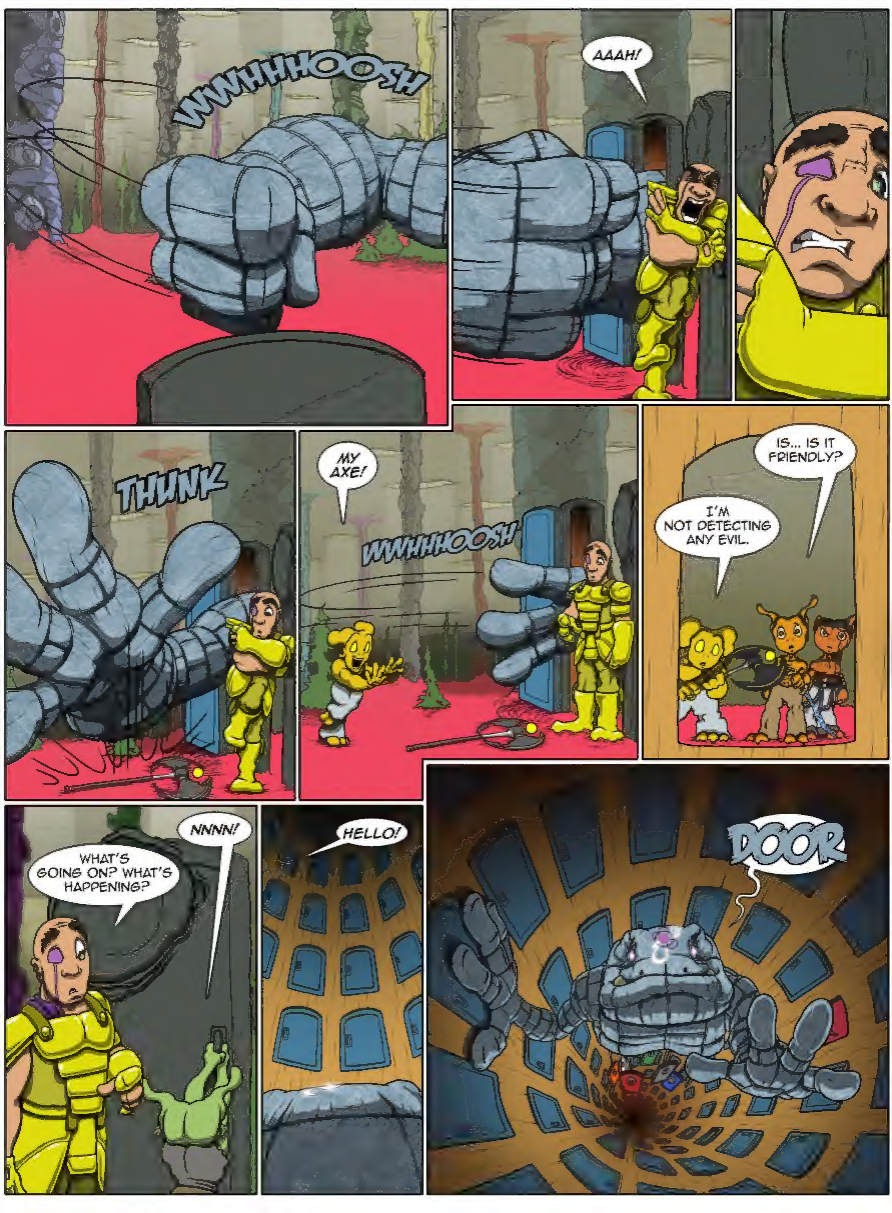
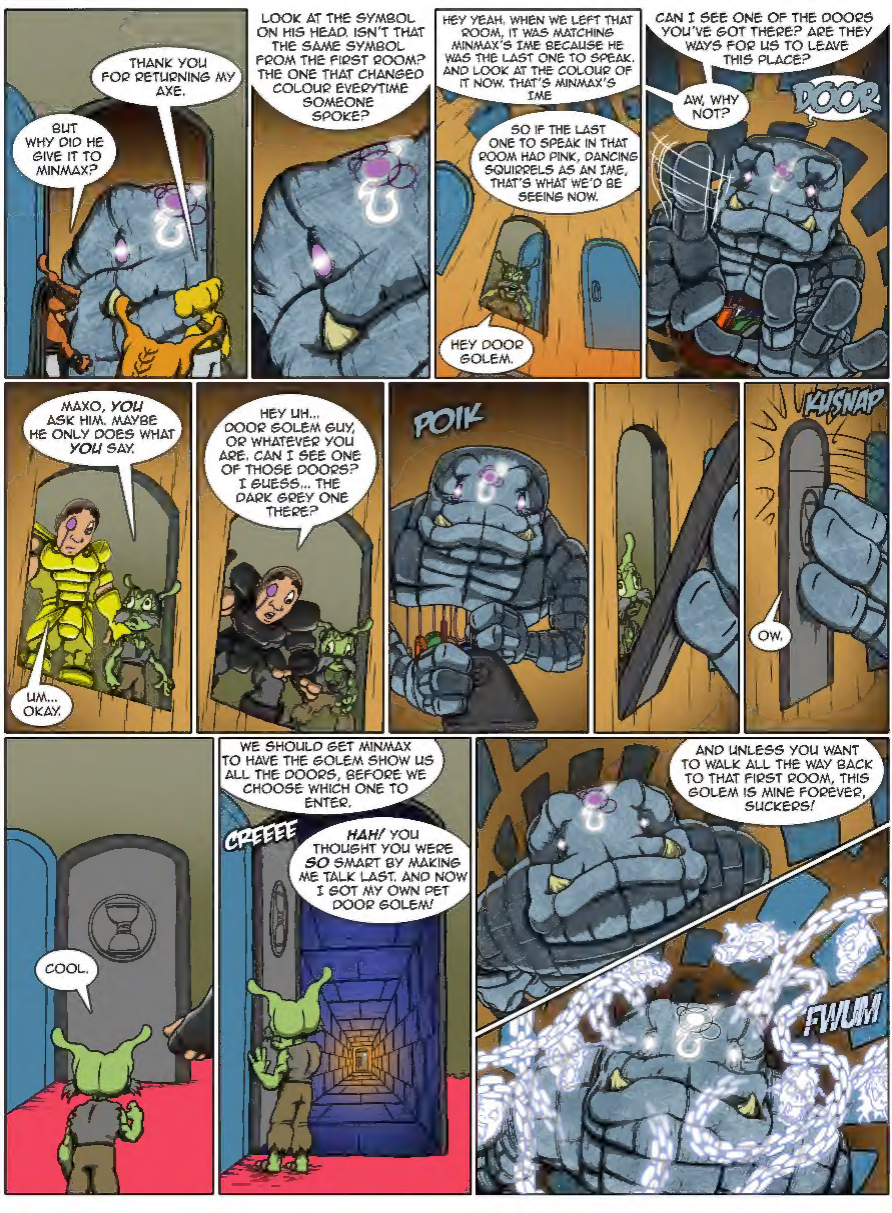
YOU WANT SOME YUMYUCK MOSS?
NO WAY. THAT STUFF IS NASTY. IT STARTS OUT TASTING GOOD, BUT THEN IT TASTES LIKE BUM VOMIT. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GUYS CAN EAT IT.
THERE'S A TECHNIQUE. YOU HAVE TO SWALLOW IT BEFORE IT CHANGES ITS TASTE. YOU ALSO USE THE NEXT MOUTHFUL TO MASK THE PREVIOUS ONE IF YOU START TO TASTE THE YUCK. IT TAKES SOME PRACTICE.
HEY, THERE'S SOMETHING UNDER THE MOSS HERE.
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS THING?
KROMP
WHOA! COOL!
A DOOR WITH NO WALL?
COULD BE A PORTAL THAT LEADS TO ANOTHER SECTION OF THE DUNGEON OR EVEN OUTSIDE OF IT.
BUT THIS PLACE IS HUGE. IT'S LIKE A MILLION TO ONE, THAT WE'D FIND IT.
WHY DOES EVERYTHING IN THIS DUNGEON CRAWL HAVE BODY PARTS ON IT?
I FOUND ANOTHER ONE.
ME TOO!
KROMP
KROMP
THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS OR EVEN THOUSANDS OF THEM.

KAAAAAAAK
WHOA.
I CAN'T SEE A BOTTOM. IT'S JUST DOORS, ALL THE WAY DOWN.
KAAAK
HEY! MAXO!
NNNN!
KICKAXO! CAN YOU SEE THE BOTTOM FROM DOWN THERE?!
WHAAAT?!
I SAAAIID! CAN! YOU! SEE!
OH FOR F...
HE'S RIGHT THERE.
OH.
RIGHT.
HI MAXO!
I'D GUESS THAT ALL OF THE BURIED DOORS LEAD INTO THIS SHAFT, BUT... THEN WHAT?
THE DOORS IN THERE HAVE HANDLES. MAYBE IF WE OPEN A DOOR FROM WITHIN THE SHAFT, IT'LL LEAD SOMEWHERE ELSE.
HI COMPLAINS!
HI BIG EARS!

CAN YOU REACH IT?
UHH!
NOPE.
WELL, MAYBE...
NOPE.
MINMAX, YOU'VE GOT LONG ARMS. SEE IF YOU CAN REACH ACROSS AND OPEN THIS OTHER DOOR.
I ALMOST...
NOPE.
PFFT, YEAH RIGHT. AS SOON AS I LEAN OVER THAT DROP, YOU'LL PUSH ME TO MY DEATH. NO WAY.
WOULD YOU RELAX? I'M NOT GOING TO PUSH YOU.
YEAH YOU WILL!
JUST TRUST ME, OKAY? NO ONE'S GOING TO PUSH YOU.
OH I'M SORRY, IS IT ANNOYING WHEN SOMEONE DOESN'T TRUST YOU? I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT THAT FEELS LIKE! I'VE ONLY GOT YOU STARING AT ME WHILE I SLEEP, CAUSE YOU THINK I'M GONNA MURDER EVERYONE! SCREW YOU, NAMES!
I THINK... I THINK I GOT IT...
WHAAA!
THE AXE!
OH NO.
EARS!
SIGH. GET OUTTA THE WAY.
DON'T. FREAKIN. PUSH ME.
I'M NOT KIDDING.
HERE. GRAB MY...
BRUUMMMBLE
DOOOOKEE


PULL ME IN.
THE HELL WAS THAT?
I DON'T KNOW. PULL ME IN.
DOOOORRR!
PULL ME IN PULL ME IN PULL ME IN PULL ME IN!
WHAT IS IT?
BIG.
IT'S COMING UP!
WELL CLOSE THE DOOR!
CHWUMP
WHEW. CLOSE ONE.
DOOOOOORRRR!


WWHHOOSH
AAAH!
THUNK
MY AXE!
WWHHOOSH
IS... IS IT FRIENDLY?
I'M NOT DETECTING ANY EVIL.
NNNN!
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
HELLO!
DOOR


THANK YOU FOR RETURNING MY AXE.
BUT WHY DID HE GIVE IT TO MINMAX?
LOOK AT THE SYMBOL ON HIS HEAD. ISN'T THAT THE SAME SYMBOL FROM THE FIRST ROOM? THE ONE THAT CHANGED COLOUR EVERYTIME SOMEONE SPOKE?
HEY YEAH. WHEN WE LEFT THAT ROOM, IT WAS MATCHING MINMAX'S IME BECAUSE HE WAS THE LAST ONE TO SPEAK. AND LOOK AT THE COLOUR OF IT NOW. THAT'S MINMAX'S IME
SO IF THE LAST ONE TO SPEAK IN THAT ROOM HAD PINK, DANCING SQUIRRELS AS AN IME, THAT'S WHAT WE'D BE SEEING NOW.
HEY DOOR GOLEM.
CAN I SEE ONE OF THE DOORS YOU'VE GOT THERE? ARE THEY WAYS FOR US TO LEAVE THIS PLACE?
AW, WHY NOT?
DOOR
MAXO, *YOU* ASK HIM. MAYBE HE ONLY DOES WHAT *YOU* SAY.
UM... OKAY.
HEY UH... DOOR GOLEM GUY, OR WHATEVER YOU ARE. CAN I SEE ONE OF THOSE DOORS? I GUESS... THE DARK GREY ONE THERE?
POIK
KUSNAP
OW.
COOL.
WE SHOULD GET MINMAX TO HAVE THE GOLEM SHOW US ALL THE DOORS, BEFORE WE CHOOSE WHICH ONE TO ENTER.
CREEEE
HAH! YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE *SO* SMART BY MAKING ME TALK LAST. AND NOW I GOT MY OWN PET DOOR GOLEM!
AND UNLESS YOU WANT TO WALK ALL THE WAY BACK TO THAT FIRST ROOM, THIS GOLEM IS MINE FOREVER, SUCKERS!
FWUM

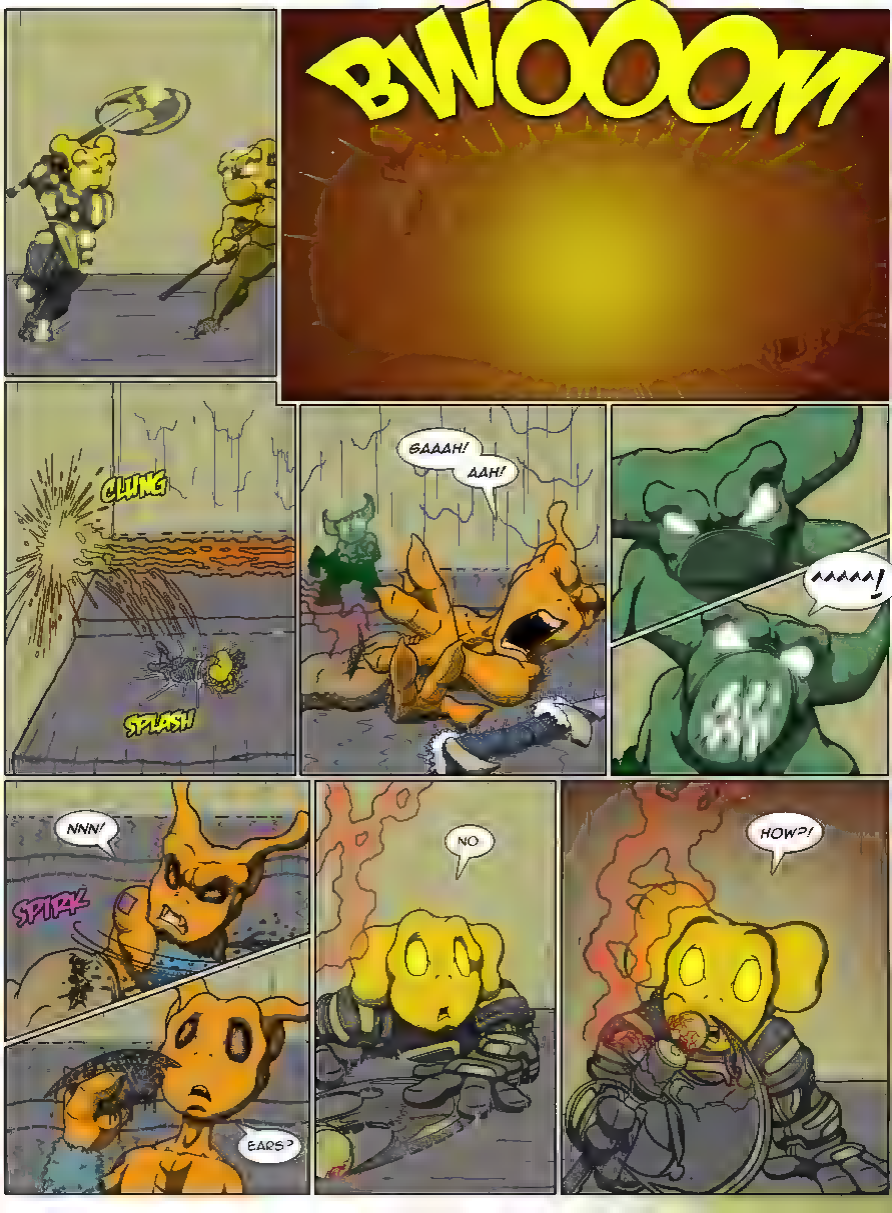
WAIT. THE DOOR GOLEM CHANGED. IS... IS THAT KORE'S IME?
WHAT?!
OH CRAP
THIS MEANS HE'S SOMEHOW MADE IT INTO THE DUNGEON CRAWL!
THIS MEANS HE'S IN THE FIRST ROOM RIGHT NOW!
THIS MEANS HE'S TALKING TO HIMSELF.
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUTTA HERE. HE'S NOT GOING TO STOP UNTIL WE'RE DEAD.
SCREW THAT. HE KILLED FORBATH. I'M GOING TO WAIT FOR HIM TO GET TANGLED UP IN THAT ROPE ROOM AND THEN I'M TAKING HIS HEAD OFF.
AND HOW ARE YOU GOING TO STOP THOSE ROPES FROM GRABBING YOU, GENIUS?
OH.
RIGHT.
WE NEED TO PUT AS MUCH DISTANCE AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN US AND KORE. LET'S KEEP MOVING.
YOU'RE COMING WITH US, RIGHT MAXO?
YEAH. I NEED TO FIND SOMEPLACE WHERE I HAVE SOME KIND OF ADVANTAGE. THEN HE'S DEAD MEAT.
THUMP
DOOR?
THWUMP
LET'S DO THIS.

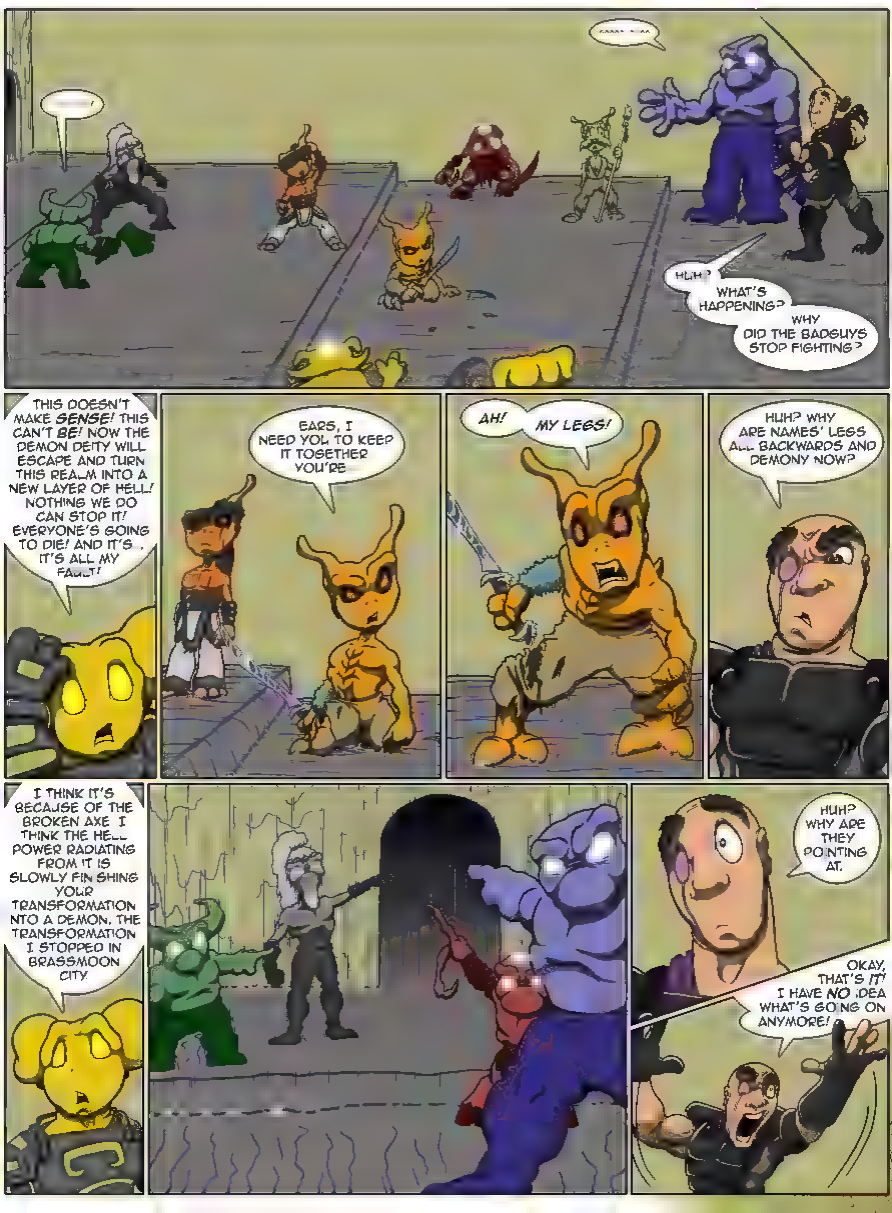
.....
WELL?
.....
.....
.....
.....
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
STILL JUST TALKING. I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THEM. THOUGH, IT'S SOME KIND OF WEIRD LANGUAGE.
EARS, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD DETECT EVIL FROM THIS DISTANCE?
I DON'T KNOW, THEY'RE PRETTY FAR AWA...
COFF
COFF
SO EVIL.
SHHH. QUIET, YOU IDIOT.
NORMALLY, I'D SUGGEST WE MAKE OUR *MOVE SILENTLY* CHECKS AND SNEAK TO THAT OTHER DOOR, BUT WITH A HUMAN HERE...
PFFT. TYPICAL GOBLINS. "I DON'T WANNA DO THE DUNGEON BATTLE", "I'M TOO SCARED TO FIGHT FOR XP", "I'M SAD".

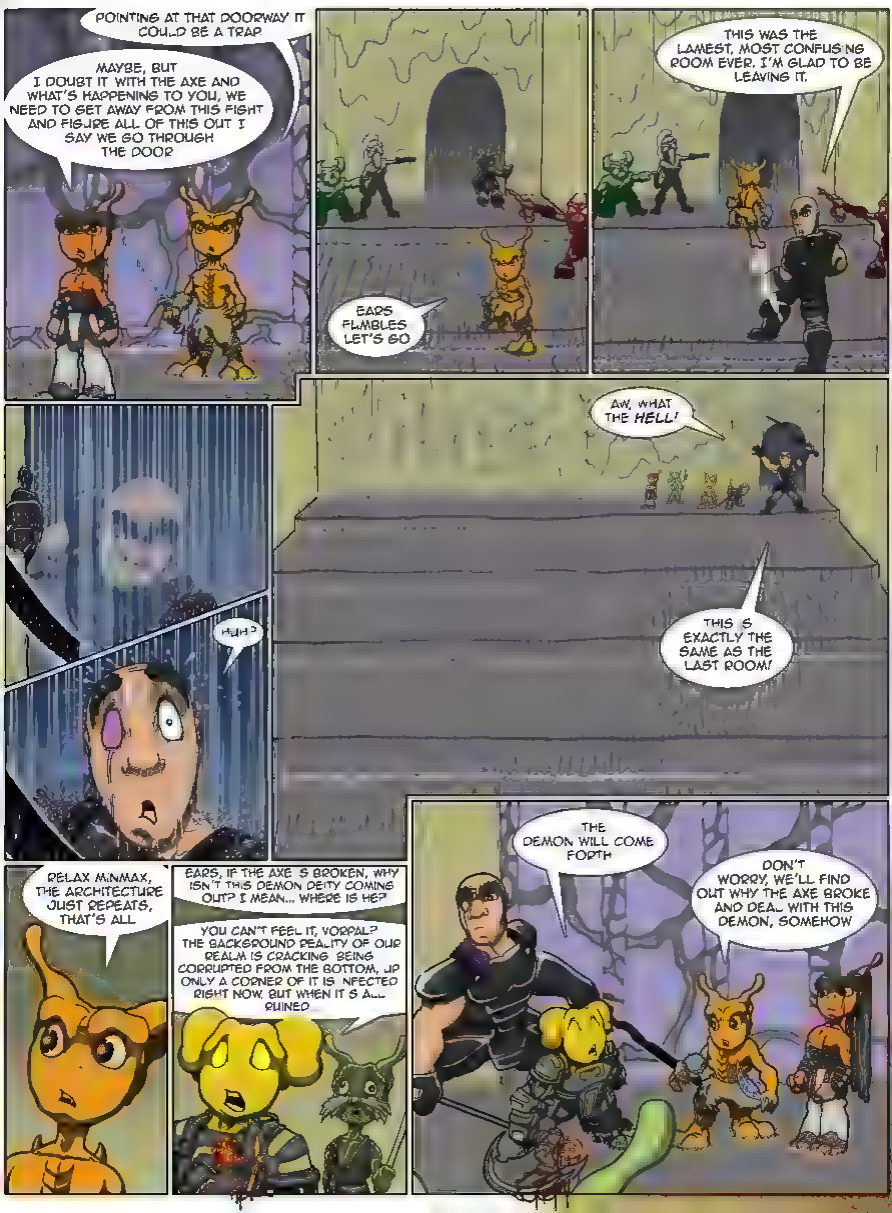
LOOK, IF WE CAN SNEAK PAST THEM WITHOUT A FIGHT, KORE WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THEM IF HE COMES THIS WAY.
OKAY FINE, WHATEVER. I CAN SNEAK, I GUESS.
ALRIGHT. EVERYONE STAY DOWN AND KEEP QUIET. I'M LOOKING AT YOU, FUMBLES.
KEEP YOUR EARS DOWN.
AH...
AH...
AAHHH...
SNICKER
JUST KIDDING.
NICE.
GUYS. I'M GONNA QUIETLY DRAW OBLIVIOUS. I WANT TO HAVE MY SWORD, JUST IN CASE.
WHAT?
AAAAAAA! MINMAXYOU ASSFACE IHATEYOU!

AAAAAAA!
ALRIGHT, THAT'S IT. I DON'T LIKE FUTURE MINMAX...
SPLASH!
...AND I DON'T LIKE PAST MINMAX.
SPLASH!
I ONLY LIKE RIGHT NOW MINMAX.
SPLASH!
TINK
ROLL FOR INITIATIVE, STUPID!
HUH?
OH. RIGHT.
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
FAWOOMM
RAAAAH!
AAAAAA!
CLANK

SPLASH!
SPLASH!
SPLASH!
SPLISH!
THUMP
SPLASH!
THWACK
FWUMM
SPLAT-CLANK
HUH? DID DID THIS BLADE JUST SUDDENLY GAIN A +1? BUT WHY WOULD...
^^^^^^^!
THWAK
GHAAH!
CLANG
CLUNNK

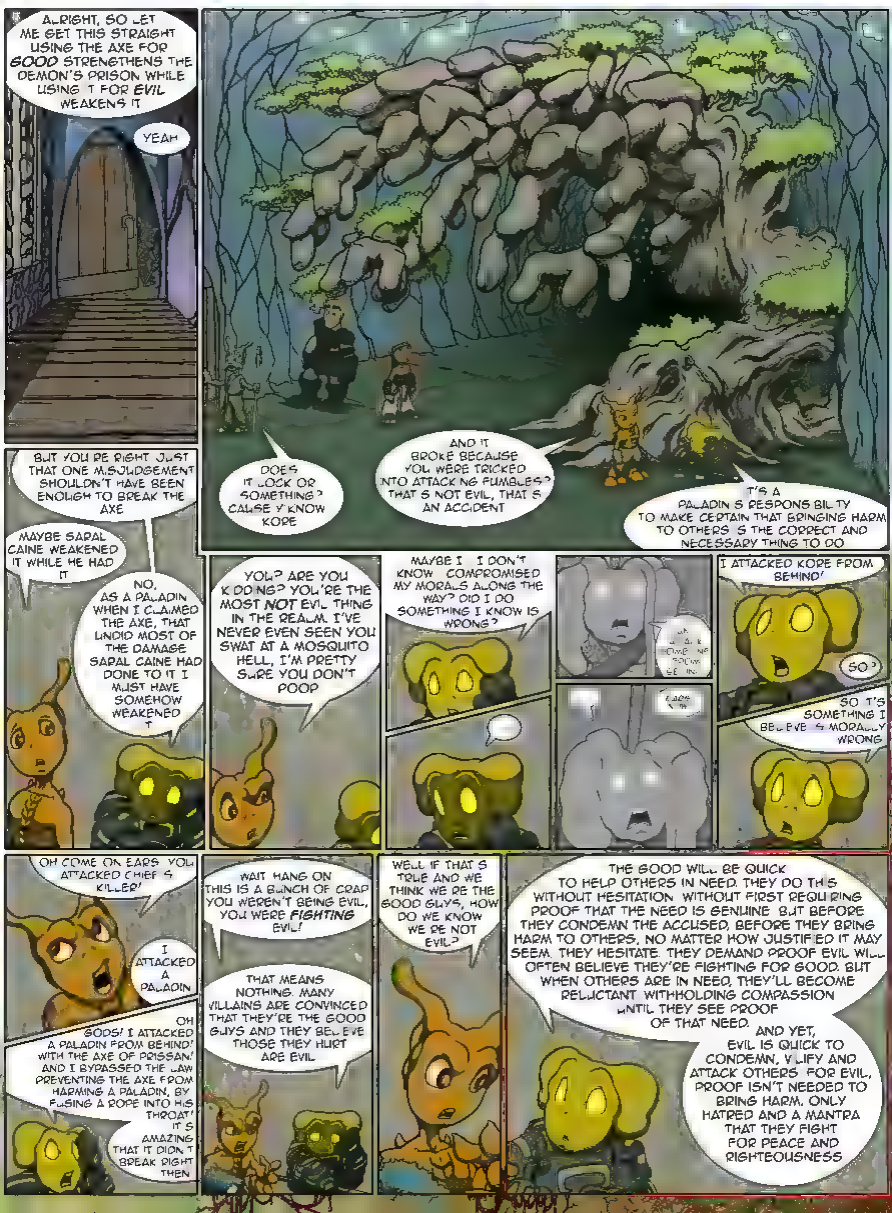

BWOOOM
CLUNG
SPLASH
GAAAH!
AAH!
^^^^^!
NNN!
SPIRK
EARS?
NO
HOW?!


HUH?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WHY DID THE BADGUYS STOP FIGHTING?
THIS DOESN'T MAKE *SENSE*! THIS CAN'T *BE*! NOW THE DEMON DEITY WILL ESCAPE AND TURN THIS REALM INTO A NEW LAYER OF HELL! NOTHING WE DO CAN STOP IT! EVERYONE'S GOING TO DIE! AND IT'S . IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
EARS, I NEED YOU TO KEEP IT TOGETHER YOU'RE
AH! MY LEGS!
HUH? WHY ARE NAMES' LEGS ALL BACKWARDS AND DEMONY NOW?
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE OF THE BROKEN AXE I THINK THE HELL POWER RADIATING FROM IT IS SLOWLY FINISHING YOUR TRANSFORMATION INTO A DEMON. THE TRANSFORMATION I STOPPED IN BRASSMOON CITY
HUH? WHY ARE THEY POINTING AT.
OKAY, THAT'S IT! I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON ANYMORE!


POINTING AT THAT DOORWAY IT COULD BE A TRAP
MAYBE, BUT I DOUBT IT WITH THE AXE AND WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU, WE NEED TO GET AWAY FROM THIS FIGHT AND FIGURE ALL OF THIS OUT I SAY WE GO THROUGH THE DOOR
EARS FLAMBLES LET'S GO
THIS WAS THE LAMEST, MOST CONFUSING ROOM EVER. I'M GLAD TO BE LEAVING IT.
AW, WHAT THE HELL!
THIS IS EXACTLY THE SAME AS THE LAST ROOM!
HUH?
RELAX MINMAX, THE ARCHITECTURE JUST REPEATS, THAT'S ALL
EARS, IF THE AXE IS BROKEN, WHY ISN'T THIS DEMON DEITY COMING OUT? I MEAN... WHERE IS HE?
YOU CAN'T FEEL IT, VORPAL? THE BACKGROUND REALITY OF OUR REALM IS CRACKING BEING CORRUPTED FROM THE BOTTOM, UP ONLY A CORNER OF IT IS INFECTED RIGHT NOW, BUT WHEN IT'S ALL RUINED...
THE DEMON WILL COME FORTH
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL FIND OUT WHY THE AXE BROKE AND DEAL WITH THIS DEMON, SOMEHOW

YOU GUYS NEED TO STOP WORRYING ABOUT A DEMON THAT ISN'T EVEN HERE, AND FOCUS ON THE TRAP THAT THOSE MONSTERS TOTALLY JUST WALKED US INTO
MINMAX, I'M DEALING WITH THE END OF THE WORLD AND THE POSSIBILITY OF TURNING INTO A SOULESS DEMON I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR YOUR STUPIDITY RIGHT NOW
PAP
HEY, DON'T GET GRUMPY WITH ME JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE INBRED KNEES
INVERTED
WHATEVER
PPPIP
PIP
..OOK, I'M TRYING TO KEEP CALM, BUT YOU'RE MAKING THAT REALLY DIFFICULT I LET YOU LIVE BECAUSE YOU'RE GOOD FOR FUMBLES, BUT IF YOU DON'T STOP
EXCUSE ME?! "LET ME LIVE"?! NAMES, I'VE KILLED THINGS THAT WOULD EAT YOU JUST BECAUSE IT DIDN'T NOTICE YOU WERE IN ITS FOOD! HOW 'BOUT WE THROW DOWN RIGHT NOW AND..
AAAAAAAAAA!
THERE'S MORE OF THEM! I TOLD YOU GUYS IT WAS A TRAP!
AAAAAA!
MINMAX, DON'T DIE IN THIS BATTLE, CAUSE I'M KILLING YOU AFTER THIS!

^^^^^^^!
BWOO
^^^^!
WE'RE FIGHTING OURSELVES WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING OURSELVES THIS WHOLE TIME
STOP!
MOMENTS LATER
OKAY, THAT WAS WEIRD.
SO I GUESS NOW WE GO THROUGH THAT OTHER DOOR? OR SHOULD WE HEAD BACK TO THE ROOM WITH THE WEIRD PILLARS?
WE CAN'T GO BACK THE WAY WE CAME, CAUSE IF KORE IS ON OUR TRAIL, WE'LL RUN INTO HIM PLUS, WE'D MEET UP WITH OUR PAST SELVES WHO WILL BE COMING FROM THAT DIRECTION. I THINK RIGHT?
NO, WE'LL MEET UP WITH OUR PAST SELVES IF WE GO BACK THROUGH THE WATERFALL DOORWAY
NO, WE'D MEET UP WITH OUR FUTURE SELVES IF WE GO THROUGH THAT DOORWAY
NO, THAT WAS OUR PAST SELVES WE WERE JUST FIGHTING
YEAH I KNOW, BUT THEY'RE ABOUT TO FIGHT OUR FUTURE SELVES, RIGHT?
NO, NO THEY'RE ONLY THE FUTURE SELVES FROM THE PAST SELVES' POINT OF VIEW. TO US, THEY'RE STILL OUR PAST SELVES. WAIT, THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT
F WE WAIT IF OKAY HANG ON LET'S START AGAIN F OUR PAST SELVES.


ALRIGHT, SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT USING THE AXE FOR GOOD STRENGTHENS THE DEMON'S PRISON WHILE USING IT FOR EVIL WEAKENS IT
YEAH
AND IT BROKE BECAUSE YOU WERE TRICKED INTO ATTACKING FUMBLES? THAT'S NOT EVIL, THAT'S AN ACCIDENT
DOES IT LOCK OR SOMETHING? CAUSE I KNOW KORE
IT'S A PALADIN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT BRINGING HARM TO OTHERS IS THE CORRECT AND NECESSARY THING TO DO
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. JUST THAT ONE MISJUDGEMENT SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO BREAK THE AXE
MAYBE SARAL CAINE WEAKENED IT WHILE HE HAD IT
NO. AS A PALADIN WHEN I CLAIMED THE AXE, THAT UNDID MOST OF THE DAMAGE SARAL CAINE HAD DONE TO IT I MUST HAVE SOMEHOW WEAKENED IT
YOU? ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU'RE THE MOST NOT EVIL THING IN THE REALM. I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN YOU SWAT AT A MOSQUITO HELL, I'M PRETTY SURE YOU DON'T POOP
MAYBE I DON'T KNOW COMPROMISED MY MORALS ALONG THE WAY? DID I DO SOMETHING I KNOW IS WRONG?
I ATTACKED KORE FROM BEHIND!
SO?
SO IT'S SOMETHING I BELIEVE IS MORALLY WRONG
OH COME ON EARS YOU ATTACKED CHIEF'S KILLER!
I ATTACKED A PALADIN
OH GODS! I ATTACKED A PALADIN FROM BEHIND! WITH THE AXE OF PRISSAN! AND I BYPASSED THE LAW PREVENTING THE AXE FROM HARMING A PALADIN, BY FUSING A ROPE INTO HIS THROAT! IT'S AMAZING THAT IT DIDN'T BREAK RIGHT THEN
WAIT HANG ON THIS IS A BUNCH OF CRAP YOU WEREN'T BEING EVIL, YOU WERE FIGHTING EVIL!
THAT MEANS NOTHING. MANY VILLAINS ARE CONVINCED THAT THEY'RE THE GOOD GUYS AND THEY BELIEVE THOSE THEY HURT ARE EVIL
WELL IF THAT'S TRUE AND WE THINK WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS, HOW DO WE KNOW WE'RE NOT EVIL?
THE GOOD WILL BE QUICK TO HELP OTHERS IN NEED. THEY DO THIS WITHOUT HESITATION. WITHOUT FIRST REQUIRING PROOF THAT THE NEED IS GENUINE. BUT BEFORE THEY CONDEMN THE ACCUSED, BEFORE THEY BRING HARM TO OTHERS, NO MATTER HOW JUSTIFIED IT MAY SEEM. THEY HESITATE. THEY DEMAND PROOF. EVIL WILL OFTEN BELIEVE THEY'RE FIGHTING FOR GOOD. BUT WHEN OTHERS ARE IN NEED, THEY'LL BECOME RELUCTANT. WITHHOLDING COMPASSION UNTIL THEY SEE PROOF OF THAT NEED. AND YET, EVIL IS QUICK TO CONDEMN, VILIFY AND ATTACK OTHERS FOR EVIL. PROOF ISN'T NEEDED TO BRING HARM. ONLY HATRED AND A MANTRA THAT THEY FIGHT FOR PEACE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

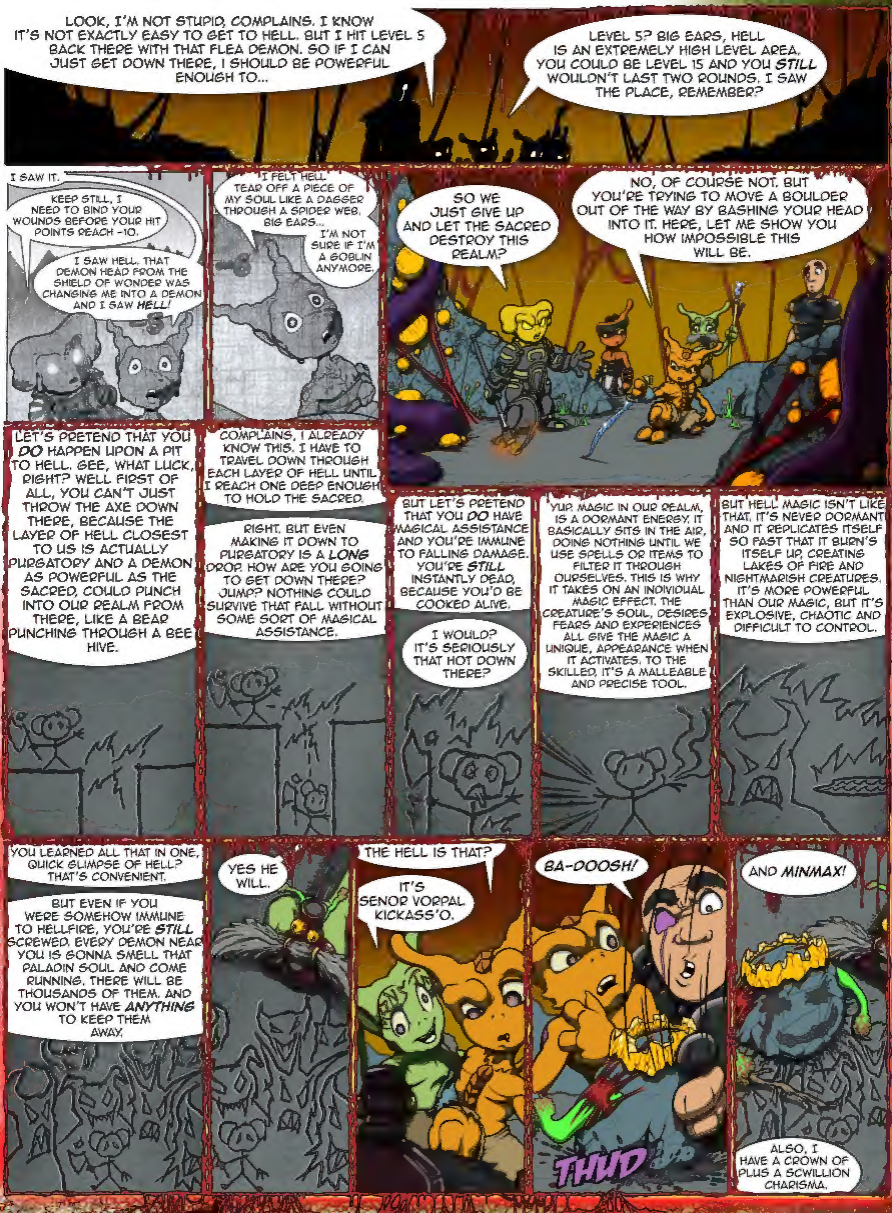
I'VE DOOMED THIS ENTIRE REALM. WHY DID I EVER THINK I COULD DO THIS? I DON'T KNOW WHY I BECAME A PALADIN
I DO. SO OTHERS DON'T HAVE TO.
Complains Of Flames. They will betray you. They see you as a demon.
They fear you.
They lie to you. Soon they'll try to kill you. They know that as a demon, only you will survive the new Hell Realm. They're jealous.
They know your name. Once you're a full demon, they'll speak your name and control you. Kill them. Kill them all.
Before it's too late.)
You have demon blood. This means that just touching the Axe will speed up the Sacred escape and further turn you into a demon. Take the Axe. Take the Axe and doom them all.
SERIOUSLY? WE'RE DOING THIS NOW? THIS TOTALLY OVERUSED TROPE?
WHAT?
THE AXE OF PRISSAN IS DOING THAT CLICHED THING WHERE THE UNSEEN BIG BAD, TALKS IN THE MIND OF ONE CHARACTER AND DRIVES HIM INSANE UNTIL HE KILLS EVERYONE
WAIT, WHAT? THE AXE IS TALKING TO YOU? I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING AND, YOU'RE GOING TO KILL US?
NO! I'M SAYING I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU!
SO OUT OF THE BLUE, YOU DECIDED TO TELL US ALL THAT YOU'RE... NOT GOING TO KILL US. UM. THANKS?
WELL DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT! YOU MAKE ME SOUND CRAZY!
AM I SERIOUSLY THE ONLY ONE HERE, WHO'S FAMILIAR WITH THIS LAME PLOT DEVICE?! LOOK IT'S VERY SIMPLE! THE OVER POWERED VILLAIN EXPLOITS MY FEARS AND INSECURITIES UNTIL I SNAP AND DO SOMETHING CRAZY AND GET YOU ALL KILLED!
OKAY COMPLAINS, CALM DOWN. DO NOT DO ANYTHING CRAZY
I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU THAT I'M NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING CRAZY! I KNOW WHAT THE DEMON IN THIS AXE IS DOING, BECAUSE I'M AWARE OF THE TROPE! SO IT WON'T WORK ON ME! IT CAN'T GET ME TO DO SOMETHING CRAZY IF I KNOW
OOPS
UM
UM CRAP
IS THE CLICHED VOICE IN YOUR HEAD NOW LAUGHING AT YOU AND CALLING YOU A SUCKER?

WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
REALITY IS SLOWLY BEING BURNED AWAY ONCE OUR REALM BECOMES THE NEWEST LAYER OF HELL. THE DEMON DEITY WILL ESCAPE THE AXE OF PRISSAN AND APPEAR.
YOU MEAN RIGHT NOW, THIS IS HAPPENING TO THE WHOLE REALM?!
UNK CHITTER CHITTER CHITTER
WHAT WAS THAT?
UNK CHITTER CHITTER CHITTER
UNK CHITTER CHITTER CHITTER
UNK
CHITTER CHITTER
FREE I AM FREE OF THE PALADIN'S PRISON
IT'S THE DEMON DEITY!
NO, IT ISN'T. THE DEMON DEITY IS STILL IN THE AXE. I CAN FEEL IT.
IT'S A PARASITE. IT LIVES ON THE DEMON DEITY LIKE A FLEA ON A WOLF. I CAN SMELL WHAT IT IS
I SEE A PALADIN SOUL, RIPE FOR SUFFERING AND HOLDING THE SECOND PRISSAN. BUT NOT THE PALADIN SOUL I WAS EXPECTING. WHERE IS THE CREATOR OF THE AXE? THE ONE WE CURSED.
WHERE'S KORE?

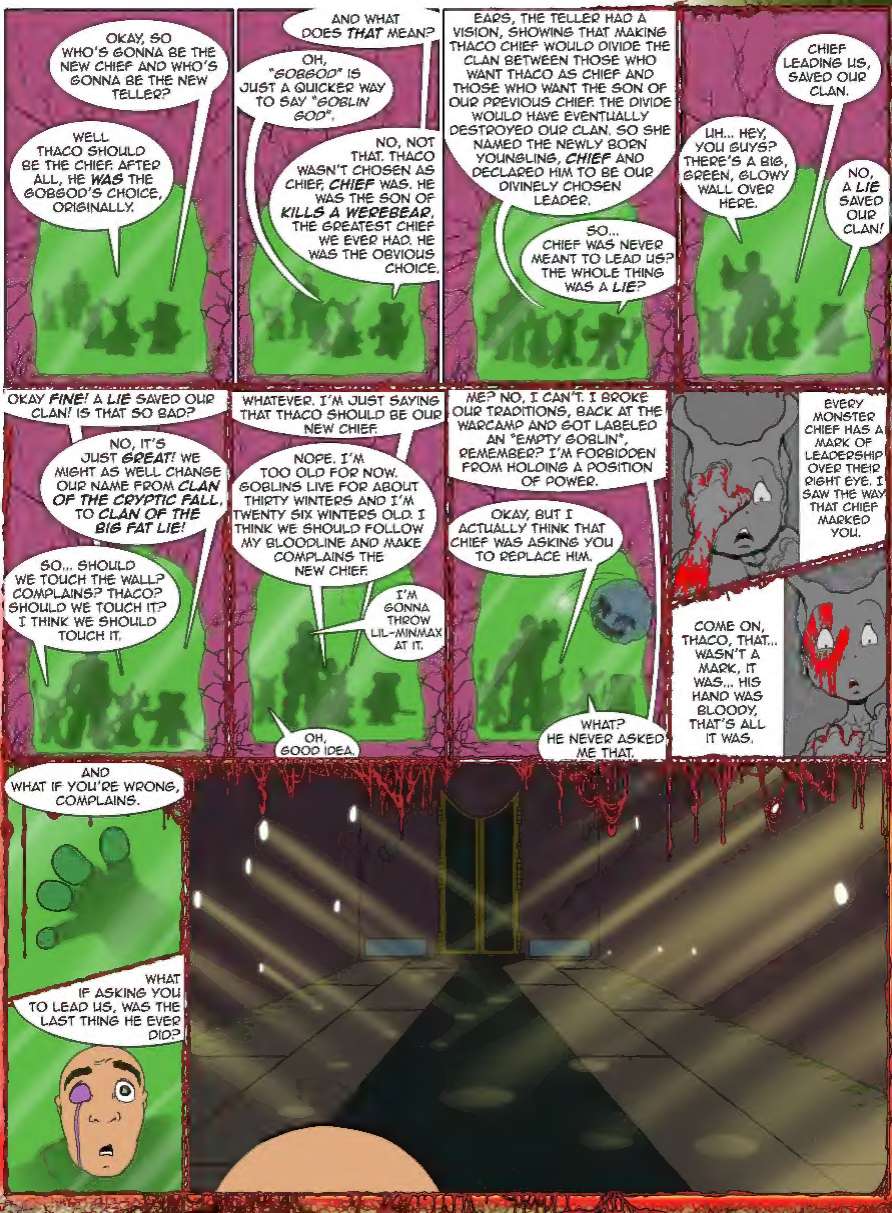
KORE CREATED THE AXE OF PRISSAN?!
WHAT?!
ROLL FOR INITIATIVE!
WAIT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET SOME INFORMATION FROM IT
KORE COULDN'T HAVE CREATED THE AXE HE KILLS INNOCENTS MURDERS YOUNGLINGS HE'S EVIL
HEH HEH THAT'S WHY EVIL IS WINNING WHEN TWO GOOD CREATURES DISAGREE, THEY ASSUME THE OTHER TO BE EVIL BUT TWO EVIL CREATURES WON'T ASSUME EACH OTHER TO BE GOOD.
THEY JUST DISAGREE
ARE YOU SAYING KORE ISN'T EVIL?
WHAT A PURE SOUL YOU ARE, PALADIN ALMOST AS PURE AS WHAT'S TRAPPED IN THE PIT OF PRISSAN GIVE YOURSELF TO ME
BELONG TO ME AND I WILL FOREVER RELIEVE YOU OF THE BURDEN OF PAINLESSNESS
FLEA DEMON TELL ME ABOUT THE DEMON DEITY THE ONE WHO SPOKE TO ME THROUGH THE AXE
YOU THINK THE SACRED SPOKE TO YOU? YOU? THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF LESSER DEMONS IN THE SECOND PRISSAN. AS THE PRISON WEAKENS, WE ARE SPILLING INTO THIS REALM. ONE OF THEM SPOKE TO YOU
THE SACRED WILL NEVER SPEAK TO CREATURES AS INSIGNIFIGANT AS YOU. YOU WILL SCREAM FOR MERCY AS MANY SOULS IN THIS REALM WILL. IN THIS WAY, YOU WILL SPEAK TO THE SACRED
BUT HE WILL NOT ANSWER YOU

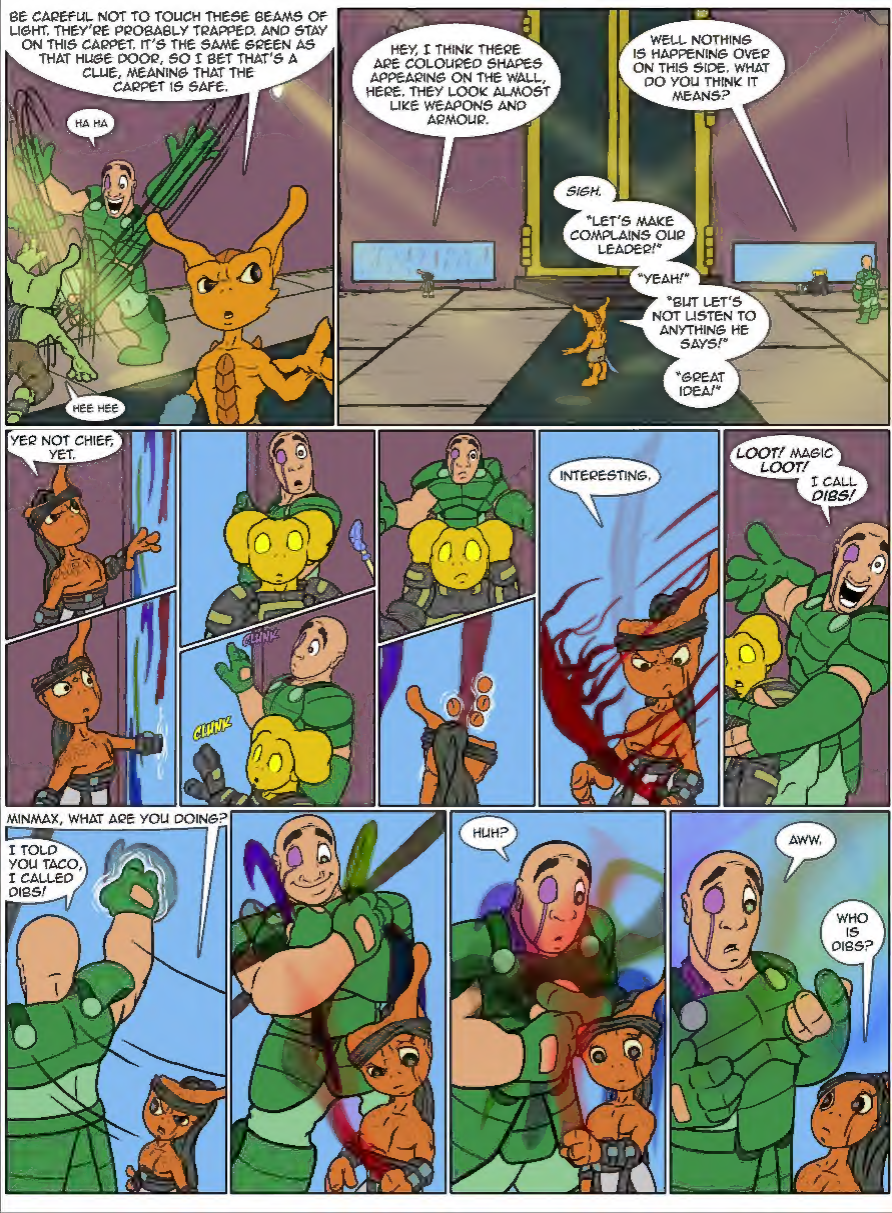
GIVE ME YOUR SOUL, PALADIN I MUST HAVE IT
YOU KEEP ASKING FOR THAT, WHY WOULD EVEN DO THAT?
DO YOU KNOW WHY PALADIN SOULS ARE WORTH SO MUCH MORE THAN MOST OTHERS? BECAUSE THEY SUFFER SO DEEPLY THEIR EMPATHY, THEIR TENDENCY TO TAKE ON GUILT. IT'S DELICIOUS. AND YOU. THE PALADIN WHO RELEASED THE SACRED INTO THIS REALM YOU WILL BE WORTH MORE THAN ALL OTHER SOULS. YOU WILL BE SOUGHT AFTER BY WAVES OF DEMONS AND UNLIKE A LESSER DEMON LIKE MYSELF, SOME OF THEM WON'T REQUIRE YOU TO WILLINGLY GIVE UP YOUR SOUL. THEY WILL RIP IT FROM YOU
YOU CALLED THE AXE "THE SECOND PRISSAN" THERE ARE TWO OF THEM?
THERE ARE THREE. THIS AXE IS A WEAKER IMITATION OF THE HAMMER OF PRISSAN. A WEAPON DESIGNED TO IMPRISON GOOD AND BE WIELDED BY PURE EVIL. THE THIRD IMPRISONS THE DAMNED
IF THE SACRED IS SO MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU, WHY IS IT THAT YOU CAN ESCAPE THE AXE AND HE CAN'T?
HEAVIER THINGS NEED STRONGER BINDINGS TO CROSS
THE MORE POWERFUL A DEMON IS, THE HARDER IT IS FOR IT TO ENTER A NEW REALM.
EXACTLY
I KNOW YOU ASK THESE QUESTIONS BECAUSE YOU HOPE TO LEARN SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP YOU STOP THE SACRED. BUT NONE OF THIS WILL HELP YOU. THE SACRED IS A DEITY AND YOU ARE NOTHING BUT TINY MORTALS. YOU ARE OUR FOOD AND OUR CURRENCY NOT OUR ADVERSARIES
WAIT HANG ON NO
IF THE SACRED IS TOO POWERFUL TO CROSS REALMS, HOW DID HE GET HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE? AND IF THIS REALM HAS TO BE A HELL BEFORE HE CAN STEP FOOT IN IT, WHY WASN'T IT TURNED INTO A HELL WHEN HE WAS HERE FIGHTING THE GREYHILL PALADINS A THOUSAND YEARS AGO? AND HOW DID YOU CURSE KORE FOR MAKING THE AXE, IF YOU WERE TRAPPED IN IT?
YOU DIDN'T CURSE KORE BECAUSE HE CREATED THE AXE HE CREATED THE AXE BECAUSE YOU CURSED HIM. AND THE GREYHILL BATTLE DIDN'T HAPPEN IN OUR REALM. IT HAPPENED IN HELL. THE SACRED HAS NEVER BEEN IN OUR REALM! AND THE AXE ISN'T A PRISON AT ALL! IT'S A DELIVERY SYSTEM! YOU LET KORE RETURN TO OUR REALM WITH THE AXE, KNOWING THAT IT WOULD ONE DAY BREAK, ALLOWING THE SACRED TO STEP OUT INTO OUR REALM.
BUT THAT MEANS... I DIDN'T FAIL! I DIDN'T BREAK THE AXE! IT WOULD HAVE BROKEN ANYWAY! IT ATTRACTS PALADINS NOT TO STRENGTHEN THE PRISON, BUT TO ENSURE THAT "FOOD" WILL BE NEARBY WHEN THE SACRED EMERGES. I... I'M *NOT* UNWORTHY!
YOU'RE RIGHT, FLEA DEMON, I AM INDEED A VALUABLE SOUL. I AM THIS REALM'S PROTECTOR AND I SWEAR THAT I WILL PERSONALLY CARRY THIS AXE BACK TO THE DEPTHS OF HELL BEFORE HE CAN ESCAPE IT.
YOU INSULT THE SACRED WITH YOUR WORDS! HE WILL RIP OFF YOUR SKIN AND REPLACE IT WITH YOUR CHILDHOOD NIGHTMARES! HE WILL SCREAM YOUR NAME IN A LANGUAGE SO OLD, THAT..
YES HE WILL.
HE *WILL* SCREAM MY NAME. IN THIS WAY, HE WILL SPEAK TO ME
BUT I WILL NOT ANSWER HIM.

GIVE ME THAT AXE, PALADIN!
SHUNK
CRACK
HOW DARE
THOK
CLAA-THAK-A
EARS, YOU'RE NOT REALLY PLANNING TO GO DOWN TO HELL ARE YOU?
HOW WOULD YOU EVEN DO THAT?
BIG EARS


LOOK, I'M NOT STUPID, COMPLAINS. I KNOW IT'S NOT EXACTLY EASY TO GET TO HELL. BUT I HIT LEVEL 5 BACK THERE WITH THAT FLEA DEMON. SO IF I CAN JUST GET DOWN THERE, I SHOULD BE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO...
LEVEL 5? BIG EARS, HELL IS AN EXTREMELY HIGH LEVEL AREA. YOU COULD BE LEVEL 15 AND YOU STILL WOULDN'T LAST TWO ROUNDS. I SAW THE PLACE, REMEMBER?
I SAW IT.
KEEP STILL, I NEED TO BIND YOUR WOUNDS BEFORE YOUR HIT POINTS REACH -10.
I SAW HELL. THAT DEMON HEAD FROM THE SHIELD OF WONDER WAS CHANGING ME INTO A DEMON AND I SAW HELL!
I FELT HELL TEAR OFF A PIECE OF MY SOUL LIKE A DAGGER THROUGH A SPIDER WEB, BIG EARS...
I'M NOT SURE IF I'M A GOBLIN ANYMORE.
SO WE JUST GIVE UP AND LET THE SACRED DESTROY THIS REALM?
NO, OF COURSE NOT. BUT YOU'RE TRYING TO MOVE A BOULDER OUT OF THE WAY BY BASHING YOUR HEAD INTO IT. HERE, LET ME SHOW YOU HOW IMPOSSIBLE THIS WILL BE.
LET'S PRETEND THAT YOU DO HAPPEN UPON A PIT TO HELL. SEE, WHAT LUCK, RIGHT? WELL FIRST OF ALL, YOU CAN'T JUST THROW THE AXE DOWN THERE, BECAUSE THE LAYER OF HELL CLOSEST TO US IS ACTUALLY PURGATORY AND A DEMON AS POWERFUL AS THE SACRED, COULD PUNCH INTO OUR REALM FROM THERE, LIKE A BEAR PUNCHING THROUGH A BEE HIVE.
COMPLAINS, I ALREADY KNOW THIS. I HAVE TO TRAVEL DOWN THROUGH EACH LAYER OF HELL UNTIL I REACH ONE DEEP ENOUGH TO HOLD THE SACRED.
RIGHT. BUT EVEN MAKING IT DOWN TO PURGATORY IS A LONG DROP. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET DOWN THERE? JUMP? NOTHING COULD SURVIVE THAT FALL WITHOUT SOME SORT OF MAGICAL ASSISTANCE.
BUT LET'S PRETEND THAT YOU DO HAVE MAGICAL ASSISTANCE AND YOU'RE IMMUNE TO FALLING DAMAGE. YOU'RE STILL INSTANTLY DEAD, BECAUSE YOU'D BE COOKED ALIVE.
I WOULD? IT'S SERIOUSLY THAT HOT DOWN THERE?
YUP. MAGIC IN OUR REALM, IS A DORMANT ENERGY. IT BASICALLY SITS IN THE AIR, DOING NOTHING UNTIL WE USE SPELLS OR ITEMS TO FILTER IT THROUGH OURSELVES. THIS IS WHY IT TAKES ON AN INDIVIDUAL MAGIC EFFECT. THE CREATURE'S SOUL, DESIRES, FEARS AND EXPERIENCES ALL GIVE THE MAGIC A UNIQUE, APPEARANCE WHEN IT ACTIVATES. TO THE SKILLED, IT'S A MALLEABLE AND PRECISE TOOL.
BUT HELL MAGIC ISN'T LIKE THAT. IT'S NEVER DORMANT AND IT REPLICATES ITSELF SO FAST THAT IT BURN'S ITSELF UP, CREATING LAKES OF FIRE AND NIGHTMARISH CREATURES. IT'S MORE POWERFUL THAN OUR MAGIC, BUT IT'S EXPLOSIVE, CHAOTIC AND DIFFICULT TO CONTROL.
YOU LEARNED ALL THAT IN ONE, QUICK GLIMPSE OF HELL? THAT'S CONVENIENT.
BUT EVEN IF YOU WERE SOMEHOW IMMUNE TO HELLFIRE, YOU'RE STILL SCREWED. EVERY DEMON NEAR YOU IS GONNA SMELL THAT PALADIN SOUL AND COME RUNNING. THERE WILL BE THOUSANDS OF THEM. AND YOU WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO KEEP THEM AWAY.
YES HE WILL.
THE HELL IS THAT?
IT'S SENOR VORPAL KICKASS'O.
BA-DOOSH!
THUD
AND MINMAX!
ALSO, I HAVE A CROWN OF PLUS A SCWILLION CHARISMA.

I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE WE COULD PRAY TO THE GOBLIN GOD FOR HELP. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE END OF OUR WORLD, SO HE MIGHT ACTUALLY ANSWER US.
NO, HE ONLY ANSWERS GOBLIN CHIEFS AND WE... WELL WE DON'T HAVE A CHIEF.
OH NO! MAXO! LOOK OUT!
WHAT IS IT, KICKAXO?
SOMETHING!
DON'T WORRY, LITTLE BUDDY. I CAN SUMMON MY SWORD, OBLIVIOUS.
WHAT IF... I MEAN... WE COULD DO THE CHIEFING CEREMONY AND ONE OF US COULD BECOME THE NEW CHIEF.
ONLY A FORTUNE TELLER CAN APPOINT A NEW CHIEF, AND OUR TELLER ISN'T HERE.
HEY! WAIT, YOU CAN DO THAT?
I DUNNO. I GUESS?
OKAY, THEN I'M PUTTING ON MY CROWN OF PLUS A SCWILLION CHARISMA.
I TOLD YOU! YOU DON'T HAVE THAT!
WELL IF YOU GET A COPY OF OBLIVIOUS, I GET MY CROWN!
HEY, STOP PLAYING WITH THOSE TOYS BEFORE I TAKE THEM AWAY!
THEN I'M EXPLODING YOUR FACE WITH MY FACE EXPLODING MAGIC! PEW PEW!
BOTH OF YOU! SHUT! UP!
COMPLAINS, WHY DON'T WE DO THE TELLER CEREMONY, MAKE ONE OF US A TELLER, AND THEN THAT GOBLIN CAN MAKE ONE OF US A CHIEF? ALSO, WHOEVER BECOMES THE TELLER, WILL BE ABLE TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE AND DO OTHER COOL, MAGIC STUFF.
SWISH! MINMAX AWAAAYY! SCREW YOU, KICKAXOOOOOO!
YEAH, WHY DON'T WE DO THAT?


OKAY, SO WHO'S GONNA BE THE NEW CHIEF AND WHO'S GONNA BE THE NEW TELLER?
WELL THACO SHOULD BE THE CHIEF. AFTER ALL, HE *WAS* THE GOBGOD'S CHOICE, ORIGINALLY.
AND WHAT DOES *THAT* MEAN?
OH, "GOBGOD" IS JUST A QUICKER WAY TO SAY "GOBLIN GOD".
NO, NOT THAT. THACO WASN'T CHOSEN AS CHIEF, *CHIEF* WAS. HE WAS THE SON OF *KILLS A WEREBEAR*, THE GREATEST CHIEF WE EVER HAD. HE WAS THE OBVIOUS CHOICE.
EARS, THE TELLER HAD A VISION, SHOWING THAT MAKING THACO CHIEF WOULD DIVIDE THE CLAN BETWEEN THOSE WHO WANT THACO AS CHIEF AND THOSE WHO WANT THE SON OF OUR PREVIOUS CHIEF. THE DIVIDE WOULD HAVE EVENTUALLY DESTROYED OUR CLAN. SO SHE NAMED THE NEWLY BORN YOUNGLING, *CHIEF* AND DECLARED HIM TO BE OUR DIVINELY CHOSEN LEADER.
SO... CHIEF WAS NEVER MEANT TO LEAD US? THE WHOLE THING WAS A *LIE*?
UH... HEY, YOU GUYS? THERE'S A BIG, GREEN, GLOWY WALL OVER HERE.
CHIEF LEADING US, SAVED OUR CLAN.
NO, A *LIE* SAVED OUR CLAN!
OKAY *FINE!* A *LIE* SAVED OUR CLAN! IS THAT SO BAD?
NO, IT'S JUST *GREAT!* WE MIGHT AS WELL CHANGE OUR NAME FROM *CLAN OF THE CRYPTIC FALL*, TO *CLAN OF THE BIG FAT LIE!*
SO... SHOULD WE TOUCH THE WALL? COMPLAINS? THACO? SHOULD WE TOUCH IT? I THINK WE SHOULD TOUCH IT.
WHATEVER. I'M JUST SAYING THAT THACO SHOULD BE OUR NEW CHIEF.
NOPE. I'M TOO OLD FOR NOW. GOBLINS LIVE FOR ABOUT THIRTY WINTERS AND I'M TWENTY SIX WINTERS OLD. I THINK WE SHOULD FOLLOW MY BLOODLINE AND MAKE COMPLAINS THE NEW CHIEF.
I'M GONNA THROW LIL-MINMAX AT IT.
OH, GOOD IDEA.
ME? NO, I CAN'T. I BROKE OUR TRADITIONS, BACK AT THE WARCAMP AND GOT LABELED AN "EMPTY GOBLIN", REMEMBER? I'M FORBIDDEN FROM HOLDING A POSITION OF POWER.
OKAY, BUT I ACTUALLY THINK THAT CHIEF WAS ASKING YOU TO REPLACE HIM.
WHAT? HE NEVER ASKED ME THAT.
EVERY MONSTER CHIEF HAS A MARK OF LEADERSHIP OVER THEIR RIGHT EYE. I SAW THE WAY THAT CHIEF MARKED YOU.
COME ON, THACO, THAT... WASN'T A MARK, IT WAS... HIS HAND WAS BLOODY, THAT'S ALL IT WAS.
AND WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG, COMPLAINS.
WHAT IF ASKING YOU TO LEAD US, WAS THE LAST THING HE EVER DID?


BE CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THESE BEAMS OF LIGHT. THEY'RE PROBABLY TRAPPED. AND STAY ON THIS CARPET. IT'S THE SAME SREEN AS THAT HUGE DOOR, SO I BET THAT'S A CLUE, MEANING THAT THE CARPET IS SAFE.
HA HA
HEE HEE
HEY, I THINK THERE ARE COLOURED SHAPES APPEARING ON THE WALL, HERE. THEY LOOK ALMOST LIKE WEAPONS AND ARMOUR.
WELL NOTHING IS HAPPENING OVER ON THIS SIDE. WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS?
SIGH.
"LET'S MAKE COMPLAINS OUR LEADER!"
"YEAH!"
"BUT LET'S NOT LISTEN TO ANYTHING HE SAYS!"
"GREAT IDEA!"
YER NOT CHIEF, YET.
CLUNK
CLUNK
INTERESTING.
LOOT! MAGIC LOOT!
I CALL DIBS!
MINMAX, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I TOLD YOU TACO, I CALLED DIBS!
HUH?
AWW.
WHO IS DIBS?